NUMB. DXXX.

The SPECTATOR.

Sic viſum Veneri; cui placet impares
Formas atque animos ſub juga ahenea
Sævo mittere cum joco. Hor.

Friday, November 7. 1712.

IT is very uſual for thoſe who have been ſevere upon Marriage, in ſome part or other of their Lives to enter into the Fraternity which they have ridiculed, and to ſee their Raillery return upon their own Heads. I ſcarce ever knew a Woman-hater that did not, ſooner or later, pay for it. Marriage, which is a Bleſſing to another Man, falls upon ſuch an one as a Judgment. Mr. *Congreve*'s *Old Batchelor* is ſet forth to us with much Wit and Humour, as an Example of this kind. In ſhort thoſe who have moſt diſtinguiſhed themſelves by Railing at the Sex in general, very often make an honourable Amends, by chuſing one of the moſt worthleſs Perſons of it, for a Companion and Yoke-fellow. *Hymen* takes his Revenge in kind, on thoſe who turn his Myſteries into Ridicule.

My Friend *Will. Honeycomb*, who was ſo unmercifully witty upon the Women, in a couple of Letters, which I lately communicated to the Publick, has given the Ladies ample Satisfaction, by marrying a Farmer's Daughter; a piece of News which came to our Club by the laſt Poſt. The *Templer* is very poſitive that he has married a Dairy-maid: But *Will*, in his Letter to me on this Occaſion, ſets the beſt Face upon the Matter that he can, and gives a more tollerable account of his Spouſe. I muſt confeſs I ſuſpected ſomething more than ordinary, when upon opening the Letter I found that *Will* was fallen off from his former Gayety, having changed *Dear Spec.* which was his uſual Salute at the Beginning of the Letter, into *My Worthy Friend*, and ſubſcribed himſelf in the latter End of it at full length *William Honeycomb*. In ſhort, the gay, the loud, the vain *Will Honeycomb*, who had made Love to every great Fortune that has appeared in Town for about thirty Years together, and boaſted of Favours from Ladies whom he had never ſeen, is at length wedded to a plain Country Girl.

His Letter gives us the Picture of a converted Rake. The ſober Character of the Husband is daſhed with the Man of the Town, and enlivened with thoſe little Cant phraſes which have made my Friend *Will* often thought very pretty Company. But let us hear what he ſays for himſelf.

My Worthy Friend,

'I Queſtion not but you, and the reſt of my Acquaintance, wonder that I, who have lived in 'the Smoak and Gallantries of the Town for 'thirty Years together, ſhould all on a ſudden grow 'fond

'fond of a Country-life. Had not my Dog the 'Steward run away as he did, without making up 'his Accounts, I had ſtill been immerſed in Sin and 'Sea-Coal. But ſince my late forced Viſit to my 'Eſtate, I am ſo pleaſed with it, that I am reſolv-'ed to live and dye upon it. I am every Day a-'broad among my Acres, and can ſcarce forbear 'filling my Letter with Breezes, Shades, Flowers, 'Meadows, and purling Streams. The Simplicity 'of Manners, which I have heard you ſo often 'ſpeak of, and which appears here in Perfection, 'charms me wonderfully. As an Inſtance of it, I 'muſt acquaint you, and by your means the whole 'Club, that I have lately married one of my Te-'nants Daughters. She is born of honeſt Parents, 'and tho' ſhe has no Portion ſhe has a great deal 'of Virtue. The natural Sweetneſs and Inno-'cence of her Behaviour, the Freſhneſs of her Com-'pleXion, the unaffected Turn of her Shape and 'Perſon, ſhot me through and through every time 'I ſaw her, and did more Execution upon me 'in Grogram, than the greateſt Beauty in Town or 'Court had ever done in Brocade. In ſhort, ſhe 'is ſuch an one as promiſes me a good Heir to 'my Eſtate, and if by her means I cannot leave to 'my Children what are falſely called the Gifts of 'Birth; high Titles and Alliances: I hope to con-'vey to them the more real and valuable Gifts of 'Birth; ſtrong Bodies and healthy Conſtitutions. 'As for your fine Women, I need not tell thee 'that I know them. I have had my ſhare in their 'Graces, but no more of that. It ſhall be my 'Buſineſs hereafter to live the Life of an ho-'neſt Man, and to act as becomes the Maſter of 'a Family. I queſtion not but I ſhall draw upon 'me the Raillery of the Town, and be treated to 'the Tune of *the Marriage-Hater matched*; but I 'am prepared for it. I have been as witty upon 'others in my time. To tell thee truly, I ſaw 'ſuch a Tribe of Faſhionable young fluttering Cox-'combs ſhot up, that I did not think my Poſt of 'an *homme de ruelle* any longer tenable. I felt a 'certain Stiffneſs in my Limbs, which entirely 'deſtroyed that Jauntyneſs of Air I was once Ma-'ſter of. Beſides, for I may now confeſs my Age 'to thee, I have been eight and forty above theſe 'twelve Years. Since my Retirement into the 'Country will make a Vacancy in the Club, I 'could wiſh you would fill up my Place with my 'Friend *Tom Dapperwitt*. He has an infinite deal 'of Fire, and knows the Town. For my own 'part, as I have ſaid before, I ſhall endeavour to 'live hereafter ſuitable to a Man in my Station, 'as a prudent Head of a Family, a good Huſ-'band, a careful Father (when it ſhall ſo happen), 'and as

Your moſt Sincere Friend

and Humble Servant,

WILLIAM HONEYCOMB.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Never Acted before.

By her Majeſty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane this preſent Friday being the 7th Day of November, will be perform'd a new Play call'd, The Succeſsful Pyrate. By Her Majeſty's Command no Perſons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

Whereas about 44 Years ago, there was one Mr.—— Cook a Merchant in the City of London, if he is now living, he is deſired (or if dead, his Executor) to come to Mr. Timothy Goodwin Bookſeller in Fleet-Street, who will inform him of a certain Matter for his Advantage.

The Retir'd Gard'ner, or, Dialogues between a Gentleman and a Gard'ner: Containing the Methods of Making, Ordering and Improving a Fruit and Kitchin-Garden, together with the Manner of Planting and Cultivating Flowers, Plants, Shrubs, and Under-Shrubs, neceſſary for the Adorning of Gardens, &c. In which is explain'd, the Art of Making and Diſpoſing of Parterres, Arbours of Greens, Wood-Works, Arches, Colonnes, and other Pieces and Compartments uſually found in the moſt Beautiful Gardens of Country-Seats. The whole enrich'd with Variety of Figures, being a Tranſlation from the Sieur Louis Liger. To which is added, a Deſcription and Plan of Count Tallard's Gardens at Nottingham. The whole Reviſ'd, with ſeveral Alterations and Additions, which render it proper for our Engliſh Gardens, by George London, and Henry Wiſe. The Works of Mr. Francis Beaumont and Mr. John Fletcher, in 7 Vols. 8vo. adorn'd with Cuts. Plutarch's Lives in 5 Vols. tranſlated by ſeveral hands. Ovid's Metamorphoſis tranſlated by Sir Roger L'Eſtrange. The Satyrs of Decimus Junius Juvenalis, &c. tranſlated into Engliſh Verſe by Mr. Dryden and ſeveral other eminent Hands. The Works of Mr. Congreve in 3 Vols. conſiſting of his Plays and Poems. Poems on ſeveral Occaſions written by Mr. Prior. Paradiſe loſt, a Poem, in 12 Books, by Mr. John Milton. The Chriſtian Hero, written by Mr. Steele. N. B. The above laſt are printed with a neat Elzever Letter in ſmall Pocket Volumes: All Printed for Jacob Tonſon at Shakeſpear's head over-againſt Catherine-ſtreet in the Strand.

LONDON: Printed for *S. Buckley*, and *J. Tonſon*: And Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-lane*.